Books — and Authors

For Young Canadians

LITERARY ADVENTURE

By CHARLES PAUL MAY

ALTHOUGH "The Christmas Tree Forest," by Raymond MacDonald Alden, illustrated by Rafaello Busoni (McClelland & Stewart), is listed for readers of seven and up, children of the picture-book age will enjoy the pleasant story. They will want to read or hear it again and again, so Christmas will not be soon forgotten with this lovely book in the home.

Nor will the charm of Easter be lost to any youngster who has the especially fine picture book **"The Whiskers of Ho Ho"**, by William Littlefield, illustrated by Vladimir Bobri (Ambassador). An old Chinese with a tray of beautiful paints has run out of things to paint, until he notices the shell of an egg that his hen has laid. With the help of his hen and his rabbit, Ho Ho, he decorates the eggs, and then shares his sparkling treasure with other people. This book has been one of the big successes of the year.

One of the best-written books of the year for young readers of eight to twelve is set in Western Canada and so will be especially interesting to boys and girls in the vicinity of Victoria. **"Nkwala"**, by Edith Lambert Sharp, illustrated by William Winter, RCA (Little, Brown), tells of an Indian boy of British Columbia who proves that he is as brave as those who have passed their tests of manhood. A good non-fiction book is **"Wonders of the Hive"**, by by Sigmund A. Lavine (Dodd, Mead). And so is **"The Adventure of Light"**, by Frank Jupo (Ryerson).

Teen-age readers will find **"Buffalo Chief"**, a novel by Jane and Paul Annixter (Saunders), fascinating reading. It combines the history of the Plains Indians with the tragic fate of the buffalo and the coming of the white man to the Middle West and the West. Another story that involves Indians is **"The Cabin at Medicine Springs"**, by Lulita Crawford Pritchett, illustrated by Anthony D'Adamo (Ambassador). It, too, is based on history of the West. For those who like non-fiction, Victor W. von Hagen has written an excellent account of Indian life much farther south—**"The Sun Kingdom of the Aztecs"**, illustrated by Alberto Beltran (Nelson, Foster & Scott).

Ernest Thompson Seton was one of Canada's finest nature writers, and now his nephew, Stuart L. Thompson, of Toronto, is following his uncle's path. His **"Outdoor Rambles"**, illustrated by Geoffrey Goss (Longmans, Green), is a good start. But the best book concerning Canada published for young readers this year is May McNeer's **"The Canadian Story,"** illustrated by Lynd Ward, and attractively published by Ambassador. It touches on the highlights of Canadian history, yet has time to bring in some delightful sidelights that most readers will not have heard of before.

AUTHOR HONORED

Honoring the birthday of August Strindberg, Jan. 22, the University of Washington Press released five more historical plays by Sweden's master dramatist in translations by Walter Johnson. With the publication of **The Vasa Trilogy (Master Olof, Gustav Vasa, Erik XIV)**, and the **Saga of the Folkungs** and **Engelbrekt**, a total of 12 of the timeless Strindberg dramas have been translated in five matched volumes with critical analyses by Dr. Johnson, professor of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of Washington.

The five volumes make available in one series all of the historical dramas of Strindberg considered to be "major" in scope. Many have been successfully produced on the European stage and have profoundly influenced the efforts of other playwrights. They provide new opportunities for those interested in historical drama and actable plays. Each previous volume of Dr. Johnson's translations has been warmly received by critics and scholars for its introduction of Strindberg into English and interpretation of his powerful theatrics.

Creighton Contracted

NEW BOOKS TO MARK CONFEDERATION YEAR

THE CONTRACT which Donald Creighton recently signed with his publisher, John Gray of Macmillan of Canada, proves that 1967 is nearer than we think and that plans for the literary celebration of Canada's Confederation Centennial are already well advanced.

This is one of the largest book commitments ever made in Canada and certainly one of the most significant. Donald Creighton, whose brilliant biography of John A. Macdonald "triumphantly proved that a biography of a Canadian need not be tedious, stiff and cold" (Times Literary supplement) is at work now on two important and timely books which his publishers expect to bring out in 1964 and 1967. As Canada grows into an increasingly vital place in world affairs, Canadians everywhere are recognizing the need and value of being well-informed about their country's political development and achievement. Suddenly we are hungry for our own history. These books will both satisfy and stimulate that hunger; Donald Creighton writes about Canada with authority, scholarship, vigor and warmth.

DONALD CREIGHTON
. . . under contract

Confederation will be an account of the Confederation movement from the formation of the coalition government in the province of Canada in 1864; a coalition formed for the purpose of attempting to secure a federation either of the whole of BNA (i.e. Maritimes) or, failing that, of the Canadas alone. It will include the Charlottetown 1864 Confederation, the Quebec Confederation 1864, the London Confederation 1866, the framing of the BNA Act and its passage, and the entire Confederation movement down to the first Dominion Day on July 1, 1867. This will be a narrative account of these crucial years in our history with particular attention given to the various personalities involved. The final triumph of the formation of the first cabinet after the movement had suffered so many difficulties and reverses, will be presented in all its dramatic aspects. This book will be ready in 1964.

In 1967 **Canada's Hundred Years** will appear. This will be a swift-running narrative account of the growth and progress of Canada from Confederation to the nation's centennial. Emphasis will be on the great personalities and vivid occasions that have distinguished the exciting century that is almost behind us. For many countries of the world it has been a century marked by destruction, for Canada it has been a hundred years of high adventure, of trial and error, of growth. Macmillan of Canada looks forward with keen anticipation to the completion and publication of these books and to the celebration of Canada's anniversary as a nation.

The STAMP PACKET

By R. M. ANGUS.

A Mr. Rowcroft has submitted a local Scottish label issued by the Isle of Canna in northern Scotland for the benefit of the Mariner's Fund. The multi-colored label features Compass Hill on the Isle of Canna and two Manx Shearwater birds whose breeding grounds are on the Isle. It is not valid for postage but is of the penny denomination and is used on the back of envelopes. Printing is on unwatermarked paper, sheets of 60, perforated II. The local cancellation used is a double lined circle, no dates, and the words "Eilean Chanaidh."

The new issue of Nigerian postage due labels released on Jan. 4 are on C. A. (Script) and not C. A. (block capitals) watermarked paper, as previously stated.

It is little wonder that postage dues are not favored by collectors: for the most part the designs are very uninteresting, usually a plain numeral surrounded by scrolls or other embellishments. Hongkong is one of the few exceptions as some years ago this colony produced a break from tradition by issuing a pleasing set of "dues" depicting a pair of scales weighing a letter, a reminder to the recipient not to under-stamp future mail.

SEQUEL to BOLDNESS

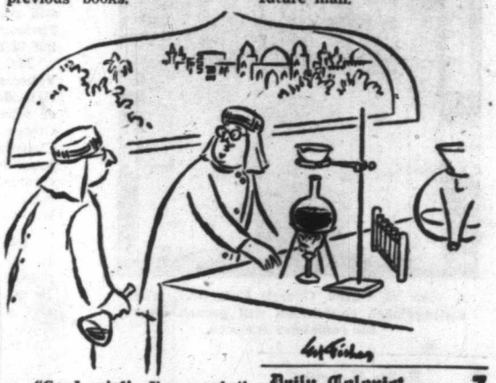
What happened to people in Occupied Europe who, at the risk of their lives, helped Allied fliers?

What do those airmen who escaped to fight again think now of the enemy who so often wrought a bitter vengeance?

Richard Pape, author of best-selling **Boldness Be My Friend**, which has sold upwards of a million copies in English-language editions alone, returned to the scene of his fantastic war-time adventures and learned the sometimes tragic, sometimes reassuring fate of those who, by their courage and fortitude, enabled him to survive. He learned, too, of the man who broke under Nazi torture and betrayed his friends, and sought him out determined on revenge.

He has called his new book **Sequel to Boldness**, and in it he has told frankly and movingly of the thoughts of a man fully conscious of the sacrifices made by those who did not live to see the triumph of the cause they so boldly supported.

It is a story that will intrigue all readers of war-escape books as well as the many readers of Mr. Pape's previous books.



"Good grief! I've a substitute for oil!"